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tions for situations from people who have attended training classes in libraries, for whom there seems a small chance of getting a decent situation. The salaries they have demanded have usually been out of proportion to what we could pay here, and the training they had received I know would not come up to our standards.

If training classes are needed in large libraries, let them limit their classes to those whom they can employ at respectable salaries.

Let the medium-sized and small libraries train only those assistants they actually need, by whatever method is cheapest and best for that particular library.

Leave training for the general field to the accredited library schools.

By a unanimous vote, officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Chairman, Phineas L. Windsor, University of Illinois library school; Secretary, Miss Alice S. Tyler, Iowa summer library school.

The following By-laws were adopted:

Name. This section shall be called the Section on professional training.

Object. Its object shall be the discussion of questions pertaining to preparation and qualification for librarianship.

Membership. There shall be two kinds

of membership, active and associate. The following classes are eligible for active membership, including participation in the business of the section: 1) All persons belonging to the faculties of library schools, or lecturers for regular courses of three or more lectures, in such schools; 2) Instructors giving three or more lectures in regular training classes.

All members of the A. L. A. interested in the object of the Section are eligible for associate membership, which admits to the meetings and to discussions but not to participation in the business of the Section.

A register shall be kept of each class of members.

Officers. The officers of the Section shall be a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary, who shall be chosen from the active membership, and who shall serve for one year.

Committees. There shall be two standing committees, one on membership, and one on program; and the officers, with the chairmen of these committees, shall constitute the Executive committee.

The membership and program committees shall each consist of three persons appointed by the Chair, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years; one member thereafter retiring and being replaced at the end of each year.

Meetings. The Section shall meet at the time and place of the Annual conference of the A. L. A., and may hold executive sessions at such other time and place as the Executive committee may appoint.

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

FIRST SESSION

Saturday, July 2, 2:30 P. M.

The first session was called to order Saturday, July 2, at 2:30 P. M. by the Chairman, James I. Wyer, Jr., Director of the New York state library. In the absence of Dr. A. C. True, Director of the Office of experiment stations, U. S. Department of agriculture, who was to have delivered the first paper on the program, Mr. WYER gave a brief opening address on

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES

A notable feature of the last ten or fifteen years in American library develop-

ment is the growth of what have come to be called "special libraries." These are libraries on one subject—engineering libraries, legislative reference libraries, libraries of professional schools, collections of books used in scientific laboratories, in investment brokerage houses, in large factories, and in a great variety of industrial enterprises. Another phase of this specialization is the growth and emphasis, within great libraries, of special departments, such as law, medicine, theology. This is especially the case with large reference libraries or with university libraries in which the special library has grown up in connection with the development of a separate school or college.

We are met to-day to discuss some of the problems peculiar to agricultural libraries. Of these there are several distinct types which have grown with the growth of agricultural research, education, and popularization in this country:

1 Those in colleges of agriculture. These may be either (a) Experiment station libraries for research use by members of the staff of one of the United States or State experiment stations, or of a private experiment farm such as those at Rothamsted or Biltmore. This type of library does not contemplate use by undergraduate students, and exists when the station is not in close connection with a college of agriculture.

(b) General libraries serving at once the student body of an agricultural college, its faculty, and the research staff of an experiment station either immediately connected with the college or in its vicinity.

2 Government agricultural libraries. Typified above all by the library of the Department of agriculture at Washington, with its many branch or subordinate libraries in such Bureaus as Entomology, Chemistry, and others. Considerable agricultural collections are growing up in many of the state departments of agriculture. These are usually unorganized, miscellaneous collections of books, most of them received in exchange for the publications of the state department, and many of them remotely related to agriculture. There will be a great growth within the next ten or twenty years in the classification, arrangement, weeding out, and utilization of these libraries in the state departments.

3 The agricultural collection or department in large scientific and technical reference libraries. While these in a way are not separate libraries, they may be considered legitimate for our purpose. They are very rigidly special; they are not always homogeneous, because of the limitations of a system of library classification as applied to an entire library. They are composed of agricultural books in a much stricter sense than a library which is entirely devoted to agriculture, and whose

classification groups around agriculture all of the very many related subjects and sciences.

All of these libraries are concerned solely with the literature of agriculture in the broadest sense, for agriculture has a great and a growing literature—a reference literature, a periodical literature, an official literature, even a *belles lettres* (Warner's "My summer in a garden"), and, as fiction, the numerous books with titles like "\$10,000 a year on the farm."

Speaking strictly and within narrow limits, we should perhaps omit consideration in such a program or meeting as this of the slender agricultural departments in city or village public libraries. The rural public library likewise scarcely comes within our field. In them, while the literature of agriculture is an incident, still it is present, and, as a social question, it is quite proper that the place of agricultural literature in rural communities and the methods of disseminating it should be discussed here.

It is interesting to note how the scope of a special library has broadened and constantly tends to broaden. In no subject is this more true than in agriculture. Chemistry, physics, economics, zoology, veterinary science, transportation, and a host of other miscellaneous topics, all have distinct agricultural relations; and the agricultural library, no matter how restricted may have been its original plan, is bound to expand in scope to include a large collection of literature on related subjects.

This raises at once the question of the classification of such a library, and suggests the general observation that the classification of any special library should be one which should place in the center of the scheme and magnify to any extent the particular subject of the library, and which should group round this subject, intimately connected with its different branches by arrangement or notation, all the literature of the various auxiliary subjects.

The subject "Popularizing agricultural literature," was represented on the pro-

gram by two papers. The first, by Charles B. Galbreath, Librarian, Ohio state library, was read at the second session, as Mr. Galbreath was unable to be present at the first session, and was entitled:

TRAVELING LIBRARIES FOR FARMERS

The second paper on the general subject was by Miss LUTIE E. STEARNS, Chief, Traveling library department, Wisconsin free library commission, and was entitled:

AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIONS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The popular interest in agricultural literature may be said to be a growth of the last twenty years, the first great impetus being given by the United States government through the raising of the Department of agriculture in 1889 to an Executive department, with its head a member of the Cabinet.

The further recognition of farm life through the appointment by President Roosevelt of the Commission on country life and the tour of the country by the Commission thus appointed, aroused an interest which is still being felt, notwithstanding the fact that the Commission itself was killed by some Tawney opposition.

The replies to a circular of inquiry concerning agricultural collections in public libraries recently sent to libraries north, south, east, and west, give abundant proof of the increasing popular interest in the subject.

Indeed, so keen has the interest become in popular books, it is reported that such works as St. Maur's "Self-supporting home," and "The Earth's bounty," originally published and read by hundreds of thousands of readers in "Good housekeeping," together with Bolton Hall's "A little land and a living," and "Three acres and liberty," have to be constantly duplicated and rebound. Other books, such as Butterfield's "Chapters in rural progress," Card's "Farm management," Meline's "Return to the land," Morris's "Ten acres enough," Masse's "Practical farming," Powell's

"Country home," Roberts' "Farmstead," and Streeter's "Fat of the land," have come to be almost as popular as novels. Bailey's "Cyclopedia of agriculture," the most scholarly and comprehensive work of that nature yet published, finds many interested readers, particularly the fourth volume of the work, which deals with farm life and its possible uplift.

In the circulation of the books given, it should be noted, however, that the readers of these books are almost wholly city folks. It is usually only the farmer who has graduated from some agricultural college, or taken a university course in farming, and who does it on scientific principles, who is interested in books on the subject. The result of the symposium on the subject shows that the most popular subject of all is poultry raising. Many libraries make a practice of advertising their books on farming.

The library at Portland, Ore., has gone so far as to publish a splendid little manual of 28 pages which is issued free of charge, containing a list of books on agriculture. The books on agriculture are used as much as, and even more than, the engineering collection.

Bloomington, Ill., reports that "early in the spring, so early that the farmer has two months before he can get out into the country, we begin to advertise our books on farming."

The Buffalo public library has books on agriculture in the stacks, open shelf room, and sends them to the branches. The library has taken the two latest and best bibliographies which could be found of some 60 or 70 books each, and has purchased copies in duplicate of all the books.

Des Moines, Iowa, uses the agricultural bulletins and reports constantly, and the collection of material on agricultural subjects is in great demand. The library keeps the farmers' bulletins, experiment station bulletins, and those of the experiment station record on file where they are accessible until a sufficient number have accumulated to form a volume, when they are bound and indexed by subject on cards. The government index to the farmers' bulletins is found a convenient tool in the library.

The Detroit, Mich., library reports that there are no official publications of any sort used to anything like the extent to which the agricultural bulletins are used.

Eau Claire, Wis., reports that it has found that "the list of publications of the U. S. agricultural department, 1862-1902, with analytical index, is a very useful book," and is anxious that the Department should be persuaded to keep it up to date, as it does away with the need of cataloging the multitudinous pamphlets.

Janesville, Wis., reports that it keeps and uses the farmers' bulletins most extensively, having them bound on tapes with stiff covers, 25 bulletins to a volume, which are pocketed and issued as books. It also makes great use of the University of Wisconsin experiment station reports.

Oconto, Wis., finds that great use is made of the agricultural collection by the county teachers who are required to teach the first principles of agriculture; part of the examination for teachers' certificates consisting of questions on agricultural subjects.

Galveston, Texas, makes great use of books on garden fruits and domestic animals, and reports the Bulletins of the United States Department of agriculture of great value.

Indianapolis, Ind., secures through the local Congressman, duplicates of farm bulletins when special ones that prove desirable are issued. Miss Browning writes, "If we have a good bulletin on poultry-raising, we get duplicates, and put each in a Gaylord pamphlet cover, and circulate them. When other bulletins are received on the same subject, such as the building of poultry houses, or relative value of breeds of chickens, we bind them together, thus making a first rate poultry book. Indianapolis is a city of spacious grounds, with beautiful flower gardens. The children are taught gardening in the schools, while a vacant lot society borrows vacant ground that is not to be built upon during the current year, has the heavy plowing done, gives the seed, and starts the idle and unemployed making gardens. All this keeps the books in the library in demand all the time."

Jacksonville, Fla., tries to secure everything possible relating to agricultural conditions in the South and especially in Florida. The bulletins of the Florida agricultural experiment station find use, as do some of the farmers' bulletins from Washington, and the "Yearbooks" of the Department of agriculture, but most of the literature is not suited to local conditions.

Newark, N. J., has practically all of the reports, bulletins, and circulars issued by the United States government. In the springtime flower and seed circulars are secured in quantities, and distributed free from the tables. For Arbor Day, the library secured many copies of the bulletin re-

lating to trees, their growth and protection. These were distributed to teachers through the Board of education, and students were invited to the library for copies of the books about trees.

Oklahoma City has the United States publications, together with the Oklahoma State agricultural department biennial reports, which are greatly used, as is everything about Oklahoma's crops and soils in encyclopedias, atlases, local newspapers, and almanacs.

Omaha, Neb., reports that it has many agricultural publications but that although it is in a farming district, and the city almost entirely maintained by farmers, yet the farmers are not supplied with literature, as the distance is too great to do so without some system of traveling libraries. Many of the farmers receive the agricultural reports directly from the government.

The Philadelphia free library reports that next to the Patent office "Gazette," the agricultural reports are used more than any other.

Topeka, Kan., states that the state library, which is a depository, furnishes all the bulletins and agricultural reports that are needed by the community.

The foregoing papers provoked much interesting discussion on farmers' reading, participated in especially by those connected with state library commissions.

The next paper on the program was by CLEMENT W. ANDREWS, Librarian, The John Crerar library, on

AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE IN A REFERENCE LIBRARY

When the plan for the organization of The John Crerar library was drawn up, in 1895, the subject of agriculture was intentionally omitted from the list of subjects to be covered, and it was stated that the Directors would await the expression of a demand before attempting to supply it. Contrary to their expectations the demand was immediate, persistent, and urgent. It did not come from the farmers; the Directors were quite right in supposing that the farmers who visit Chicago would have other things to do. It did come, however, from the general public as well as from certain special classes of readers.

Typical cases are as follows: the city

man who wishes to get "back to the soil"; the amateur who wants general books on kitchen gardening, poultry raising, and once wanted books on the Belgian hare; the city tree owner who wants information on the extermination of tree pests; and the advertisement writers for development companies, who want material such as railroad folders, commercial club publications, and some state publications.

Other classes of readers make demands less readily met: the practical gardener wants more extended reading and on a much larger range of special topics; indeed sometimes he or she wants information that has not yet been made accessible in print, as was the case until quite recently in regard to raising frogs for the market. The prospective investor wants to know whether the statements of agents are correct in regard to a commercial venture, or is looking for a home, and wants especially the official literature on climate, resources, special industries, and new methods. Absentee landlords, manufacturers, and investors, ask for information in regard to farm machinery, farm buildings, etc. The growing class of teachers of agriculture needs not only the works on the teaching of agriculture as a science, but general and special treatises.

Finally two classes of readers require, or should require, a most extensive collection of scientific and technical material in all languages and on all branches of agriculture and related topics. One of these is the scientific investigator, and the other the writer for agricultural periodicals. According to the "American newspaper annual" 52 agricultural papers are published in Chicago, while New York has 30.

To meet these demands the library has accumulated over six thousand volumes classed between 630 and 639 in the Decimal classification. How much related material is classed elsewhere cannot be stated. This collection contains nearly everything of importance published since 1896, and some of the older material. The annual increment is now some 600 volumes at a cost of nearly \$700 for books, and \$120 for the 80 periodicals currently received.

While the amounts which different libraries can spend profitably on the subject will vary very greatly, yet perhaps this review of the experience of one library may be of service, to use an appropriate metaphor, in determining the extent of the field and the results which may be expected from its cultivation.

The last paper of the first session was presented by Miss ANNA M. SMITH, Librarian, Department of agriculture, University of Minnesota, the subject being:

THE INSTRUCTION OF STUDENTS IN THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

In view of the fact that so many of the better class of normal schools of the country have inserted in their curricula courses for the instruction of students in the use and management of libraries, the more general phases of the question need little discussion at this time.

The College of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota now offers a course of instruction in the use of the library, which course is required in the sophomore year in the Department of home economics, and is given as a junior elective in the Department of agriculture and forestry. This course includes three lectures and three laboratory periods each week for eighteen weeks. The subjects discussed are:

- 1 History of libraries.
- 2 Relation between the library and the schools.
- 3 The parts of a book.
- 4 Classification and Arrangement of books.
- 5 The Catalog.
- 6 The making of indexes.
- 7 Magazine indexes, including bibliographies and reference work.
- 8 Reference books, including bibliographies and reference work.
- 9 United States, state and city publications, including bibliographies and reference work.
- 10 General bibliographies of subjects pertaining to home economics.
- 11 Book selection and book buying.
- 12 Study of books etc. on Home economics.

13 Scope and methods of library administration for school libraries.

An interesting discussion followed as to courses in the use of the library for agricultural students in various colleges, including the University of Illinois, Agricultural college of Utah, Ohio State university, and Massachusetts agricultural college.

Adjourned until Monday, July 4, 9:30 A. M.

SECOND SESSION

Monday, July 4, 1910, 9:30 A. M.

The first paper read at the second session was by C. B. Galbreath on "Traveling libraries for farmers," as stated before. This was followed by a paper by CHARLES R. GREEN, Librarian, Massachusetts agricultural college on

THE RELATION OF THE EXPERIMENT STATION LIBRARY TO THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

In discussing the relationship of the experiment station library to the college library, it is my idea that we must go back to the fundamental basis upon which agricultural colleges were established, namely: first, teaching agriculture and the mechanic arts to the students assembled at the college; second, to carry out various lines of investigation work at the experiment station; and third, to teach agriculture in every other legitimate manner wherever opportunity affords, such as short courses during the summer and winter, farmers' institutes, special railroad trains, correspondence courses and in any other manner which would come under the generally accepted term of extension work. So far as I have been able to learn, the libraries of the agricultural colleges have not been noted for their activity in any one of these phases of work. At the present time, however, they are coming to a realization of their opportunities along the first or most important line, namely: that of teaching agriculture to students at the colleges. As far as being of service in extension work, the libraries of the agricultural colleges have been of little or of

no service, and concerning the relation of the college library to the experiment station work I am unable to find that there has ever existed any relation at all, so that when considering this subject it seems that I am treading on forbidden, or at least unbidden, ground.

I am rather inclined to think that a great many of the experiment station libraries have been built up, or rather have come into existence, under a rather "hit or miss" fashion, and just because of this lack of organization, are libraries of the agricultural colleges able to find an opportunity to render valuable service. I think I am safe in saying that in the majority of cases the experiment station libraries are not libraries at all; rather that they are merely small, haphazard collections of books which have accumulated in the headquarters building, quite as much through gift as through premeditated purchase, and in consequence we find that a great many of the experiment stations throughout the country are in possession of nothing worthy of the name of a library, or which can be considered to be of much value as a vital working force in the work of the experiment station.

Now no matter what conclusion we may reach in this discussion, we must strive for a better spirit of mutual helpfulness and co-operation in all the persons concerned. This is fundamental; it applies equally well to every phase of college work, and is absolutely essential in whichever course we decide to pursue. There has always been a sense of remoteness when considering the experiment station. It frequently exists at some distant place on the campus, or in the town or state. This may account for its being left severely alone—aloof from the regular ordinary college activities, but this idea must give way to one of closer relationship.

Having in mind, then, our desire to be of the greatest assistance to the experiment station people in this library matter, I am inclined to think that we can be of the greatest service only when we consider the experiment station as one of the departments of the college, just as much

as we consider the botany department, or the department of veterinary medicine integral parts of the entire institution. Granting this departmental relationship, and remembering the supervision exercised by the college Board of trustees, college president, and college treasurer, it seems only fair to assume that the college librarian should exercise that same authority over all the books bought by or for the experiment station proper. Working under this scheme, all the books in the experiment station department should be considered as belonging to the main college library, and under the supervision of the college librarian. He should be considered the custodian—the caretaker, the careful keeper, of them all. All books should be purchased by the college librarian upon request from the proper experiment station officer. These books, as they are delivered at the college library, would go through the various processes similar to those of any other book coming to the library. They would be properly accessioned, classified, shelf listed, and cataloged, and then assigned to their particular office. If necessary, duplicate cards could be made, so that in addition to the main library catalog, a card catalog could be kept either at the department headquarters, or in the office of the particular department. But on cards, in the main library catalog, there should be added sufficient information to designate the present abiding place of those volumes which have been assigned to the experiment station, or any other department, as the case may be. This process, it seems to me, would facilitate matters immensely in every respect; books could be bought cheaper, accounts could be kept easier, and every transaction and operation could be carried on in the best possible form; and then, too, every user of the catalog could see at a glance whether the book he is anxious to secure is in the main college library, or in some department library. In discussing this matter with some people I have heard one objection only, and that is the lack of suitable headquarters where a department library could be established and be

of equal assistance to all the working departments in the experiment station. This is really not an objection worth considering, because the experiment station botanist, for instance, can have his assignment of books, and in the majority of cases they would be in or near the working library which he has at his command as botanist of the regular college staff. It would be the same way with the chemist, or the entomologist. As long as the books belong to the college, and as long as the proper designation has been made on the proper library cards, books can go wherever they may be of the most service. In connection with this point about properly designating the abiding place of these particular volumes, I think it would also be a wise provision to make some particular designation in every volume so removed from the main college library. Either a particular bookplate could be used, or perhaps a rubber stamp could be used in addition to the regular college library bookplate.

In summing up this matter, it seems to me that we cannot help returning to the old and much-discussed question of department libraries, and here again we must take our stand according to our particular opinions, but I do not hesitate to think that this department library idea must prevail in the experiment station, just as much as it does and will prevail in every other live and active department. The experiment station people cannot get along without their books—books of research and reference. It is simply a question of ministering to them along the best and most approved lines; and so we must return again to the original proposition. There must prevail a spirit of interdependence, mutual helpfulness, and co-operation which is essential without question in the working of the library with every other department of the college.

While this question of books has become the most important one in considering the relation of the experiment station library to the main college library, there is another phase of the situation which must not escape attention. In particular, I wish to speak of the large number of re-

ports and pamphlets, and the periodical literature which the experiment station receives in enormous quantities in exchange for the bulletins and reports which it sends broadcast throughout the country. This material sometimes receives attention at the hands of some clerk in the headquarters building, but I do not believe that it ever receives all the consideration which it deserves. Some of the experiment stations maintain a reading room where a good deal of this material is either shelved, or piled upon the table for the inspection of the station workers as they happen to frequent that building. Quite often this material is free to any of the station staff who may care to appropriate it, all of which is a very haphazard and a very unbusinesslike way of doing things. I think the experiment station people should see to it that printed matter sent to them in exchange for bulletins and reports is mailed direct to the college library. In that way, a uniform check list could be maintained, a check list which would show everything received by the library, either by gift or purchase; and also in this way would the librarian be able to keep his files more complete.

In return for all of this miscellaneous material from the experiment station the college library should keep on file in the experiment station such periodical literature as is deemed essential by the experiment station workers. The experiment station library would then consist of a goodly selection of books and periodicals adapted to the special needs of its particular line or lines of work.

I feel quite sure that in working along some such lines as those suggested above will we approach nearer to our ideal of service.

The next paper was by W. P. CUTTER, Librarian, Forbes Library, on

THE CLASSIFICATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

What is an agricultural library? I take it to be, in the broadest sense, such a library as will furnish information on

every subject which is of interest to the student of agriculture. But the student of agriculture is the student of human life, and in treating of literature which he may use, I know of few branches of human knowledge that may not in some measure be included.

An agricultural library is far from being merely a library of agriculture; a classification made for such a library would include many more subjects than could by any stretch of the imagination be connected closely with agriculture. But each of these must touch the life of the live farmer more or less, and therefore must be included. Transportation, sociology, statistics, political economy, natural history, medicine, architecture, engineering, domestic economy, politics—all interest the farmer to-day. The farmer will rarely read a library made up entirely of agricultural books.

As for the subject of agriculture itself, there is slight choice. The two existing American classifications leave little to choose. The "Expansive" uses a classification made by me. The new edition of the "Decimal" is, I understand, to use one based on mine, but expanded and adapted by Mr. J. I. Wyer. There is, in the main, little difference between them. The notation, differing in the "Expansive" and the "Decimal," renders some difference in arrangement necessary.

The difference in the natural sciences and natural history is much greater. The "Expansive" classification is far more detailed, and is more modern in its nomenclature. This is to be expected, since it is of much more recent preparation. In the domain of non-agricultural technology, I speak with more diffidence, for two reasons. In the first place, the work is not complete. In the second place, it happens to be my own work. I have, naturally, tried to make it better, and I hope it is. I should expect the new "Decimal" to be better than mine, were it not for the avowed disinclination to make radical changes. The "Decimal classification" has the great advantage that its index is finished.

That is as far as I care to go in my characterization of the two classifications, except that I naturally believe the "Expansive" to be the more scholarly and more logical, and to have the more usable notation.

A reference library needs a closer classification than one of more popular use; especially if it is to have open access. If it is to have closed shelves, it needs classification only as a convenience to the librarian and assistants, and this may be broader. Of course, in either case, the catalog should be one containing, not necessarily great detail of collation, but surely great detail in subject work, especially subject analyticals. Above all, it needs assistants of college education, with a good knowledge of languages, and a knowledge of recent agricultural development.

There are other systems than those I have mentioned, but few which have any general use. The classification of Mr. J. Duff Brown is singularly deficient in many respects. The classification of the Department of agriculture is not logical, being made years ago, and subdivided from time to time as occasion arises. The French adaptation of the "Decimal" to agriculture, published by M. Vermorel, is unnecessarily detailed, and is hysterical in its notation. Mr. G. E. Morton's adaptation of the "Decimal," published in the 16th annual report of the Wyoming Agricultural experiment station and designed as a system of filing clippings, is no improvement on Mr. Wyer's scheme.

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Miss E. L. Ogden, Librarian of the Office of experiment stations, U. S. Department of agriculture, then read a paper entitled "Guides to recent agricultural literature," which is to be published later in the form of an annotated list. As a contribution, to the subject of indexing agricultural literature, Mr. C. H. Hastings, Chief of the Card section, Library of Congress, described the various printed catalog and index cards prepared by the Library of Congress, and the Library of the U. S. Department of agriculture, and called attention to the complete set of cards for the Department of agriculture publications, which was on exhibition at the meeting. Mr. Hastings was followed by a discussion of the cards prepared by the Office of experiment stations, indexing State experiment station literature, a partial set of which was also on exhibition.

The final paper by WILLIAM M. HEPBURN, Librarian, Purdue University, was read by William H. Powers and was entitled:

AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS, THEIR SELECTION AND PRESERVATION

The short time allowed for the preparation of this paper, and the press of other duties have prevented that complete and systematic study of the practice of the various Agricultural colleges and experiment stations which was at first intended, and which should be made as a basis for action on this subject of the selection and preservation of agricultural periodical literature. For it is certain that no one institution, not even the Library of the Department of agriculture, without great expense for storage space, clerical labor, and binding, could hope to procure and preserve all of the agricultural journals

that have been, now are, and hereafter shall be printed. Many of these journals are of small value, or of local interest only, or important for statistical purposes chiefly; and there is no good reason why each separate school of agriculture or experiment station should keep complete files of all of them on their library shelves, even if they could obtain them. Co-operation and co-ordination of effort is necessary, and a study of the practice of all of the active agricultural libraries must be made as a basis for this concerted action.

This paper therefore is merely preliminary and general in its nature.

It will be quite unnecessary to emphasize the importance of periodical literature to the librarians of agricultural libraries. It is safe to say that in all of them, from one half to two thirds of the annual accessions are serial in character, including the bulletins and reports of societies, state boards, and stations, together with the regular periodicals dealing with agriculture and related subjects.

I. Of first importance to an agricultural library are the journals representing those sciences which underlie agriculture or are closely related to it. These include the biological sciences, anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, botany, and zoölogy with their subdivisions, together with geology, physics, and chemistry. In fact, hardly a science exists which may not at some point yield matter of value to the agriculturist. If the School of agriculture is part of a university, most of these journals, being of interest to other departments of the institution, will naturally be in the general library. In most cases it is enough for the agricultural library that they are on the campus, either in the main library, or in one of the department libraries where they can be made available to the agricultural student and professor. Here is a place where the general college library, and the libraries of the School of agriculture and the Experiment station, if all three exist, may co-operate with good advantage, by seeing that all the valuable scientific periodicals in English and in foreign languages are subscribed for by

one or the other of them. No library can have too many of these reputable journals, the supply being limited only by space, cost, and the ability of the faculty to use them.

It is necessary to secure these by purchase, very few being available gratuitously to any one library. It goes without saying that all should be bound. The money spent in a subscription is practically wasted unless the volumes are preserved complete and in useable form, and this can be done only by binding them.

Included in this group should be mentioned the engineering periodicals, a selection of which should be included in every agricultural library, or be otherwise available to it. The chief engineering topics of interest to agricultural students at present are cement and concrete, the building arts, farm machinery, road making, the gas engine, irrigation and drainage.

For the most part the information contained in this class of journal is available to the searcher by means of indexes, annual or consolidated, and this fact supplies another argument for their binding and preservation.

II. A second group of journals of interest and value to students of agriculture are the trade journals of the various manufacturing industries associated with agriculture, to which agriculture supplies raw materials, or which have a reflex influence on agriculture from the nature of the demand which they make for certain types of product, or because the farming population is a large consumer of their product. These may, or may not be, of interest to other departments of an educational institution with which an agricultural library may be associated. And here again is a field for the fullest co-operation between the various interests involved. These journals are devoted largely to the commercial side of industry, as related to the production, distribution, and consumption of the great staples or of manufactured articles. There is a very great variety of these periodicals, hardly a trade or industry being unrepresented. The selection therefore must be determined by

local needs and conditions, consideration being given to the industries of the state, the courses given in the School of agriculture, or the experimental work carried on by the Station. It would be absurd for an agricultural library, as such, and apart from any definite need for them, to attempt to cover the whole of this vast field even by a representative of each trade or industry. Very few of these journals are provided with an annual index, and they are usually not included in any of the consolidated indexes, so that their use as reference material is difficult. Also their bulk far outruns their real reference value, so that binding is an expensive matter. If bound, they should be covered with a material that will last well in an undisturbed state, as after a few years they are likely to be little used. Notwithstanding this, their value for current use is often very high.

III. The third group of journals of interest to the agricultural library are the strictly professional periodicals, the farm papers, of which there is always a luxuriant crop. With few exceptions the profession of agriculture can take but little pride in journals of this class. In many cases they aim to provide all the reading necessary for the farmer and his family, being newspaper and magazine in one, providing him with professional information, amusement, social, political, and religious instruction to the extent of 20 to 30 pages per week, and all for \$1.00 a year. Many of them will, in time to come, provide a fine field for the sociologist who wishes to study rural conditions in a given state or territory. But whatever their value socially or statistically to the student or professor of an agricultural college, it must be admitted that their value is slight.

This is not to be taken to mean that their value to the farming community has also been small notwithstanding their obvious deficiencies. Many of them have had a long and an honorable history. The first agricultural journal, with the comprehensive title "The American farmer," appeared on April 2, 1818. "The New England farmer," still current, although there

are some gaps in the connection, first appeared in 1822. The "Rural New Yorker," "Prairie farmer," "Country gentleman," "Coleman's rural world," and others were household words back in the '70s, all being distinct forces for good on the social and industrial life of the farming community. They did much to prepare the way for the scientific methods of the last quarter of a century. Any library which has files or even odd volumes of agricultural journals dating before 1870 may consider itself fortunate. This early literature, now of historical value, is in a class by itself and no library would think of discarding it or hesitate to acquire it.

In 1872 there were 21 weekly, and 35 monthly or semi-monthly, newspapers and periodicals published in the interests of the farmer and stock-breeder. Doubtless as many more had even at that time been discontinued, for the mortality rate in this group is very high. The number of these journals has largely increased during the last 15 or 20 years. In 1894, the Library of the Department of agriculture was receiving 100 journals of this kind, while in 1909 they were receiving nearly 300. Many of the stations and agricultural libraries receive from 100 to 200 by gift or exchange. In 1904, the "American newspaper annual" listed 420 of these farm journals in the United States alone, while in 1910 the number was 435.

It is manifestly impossible for any one library to receive, bind, and preserve all of these journals; and yet it is evident that practically all of them, for one reason or another, have some claim to immortality. I believe that the libraries of the Agricultural colleges and experiment stations have a duty to perform in preserving the periodical literature of their own state. If the agricultural libraries will not do it, no one will. The scientific journals and the trade journals already mentioned will be preserved, entirely independently of the agricultural libraries. The scientific, and technical, and special libraries will take care of that. Surely the agricultural libraries may be expected to care for the journals in their own special field, al-

though they do not form the most valuable part of their collections from the point of view of study and research. This plan will indeed put an uneven burden upon the libraries. Some libraries would have but a single journal to care for, while others, such as California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and New York would have from 15 to 50 to provide for. It is true, however, that the libraries of these states would be better able to assume the burden than those of less populous and less wealthy states.

The real question, however, as to what are the best of the agricultural journals still awaits an answer. The expert advice of the officials of the various colleges and stations, and of the Department of agriculture, has not yet been taken on this subject, and before it is taken no final answer can be given. About a year ago several of the agricultural college libraries were asked what American farm journals were bound for permanent preservation. Answers were received from five, and the results have some interest in this connection. These libraries bound 7, 10, 14, 18 and 32 titles, respectively. The "Rural New Yorker" was bound by all five libraries; "Wallace's farmer" by four; "Country gentleman," "American sheepbreeder," "Breeder's gazette," "Hoard's dairyman and Jersey bulletin" by three; "American agriculturists," "Farmer's advocate," "Orange Judd farmer," "Pacific rural press," "American fertilizer," "American veterinary review," "Gardening," "Garden magazine," "Irrigation age," and Holstein-Friesian register" by two; while 39 others were bound in one library only, making a total of 54 American farm journals bound by these five libraries. In addition, 10 foreign periodicals were bound.

Much might be said with reference to these foreign journals, with reference to the difficulty of securing volumes of the titles in the third group, the difficulty of completing broken volumes and sets, the

proper materials for binding, and other topics that will inevitably suggest themselves to those who have worked with this class of literature. Without going further into details, however, the purpose of this paper will be fulfilled by suggesting three desiderata in this field.

1. A check list of agricultural periodicals in the three groups mentioned above, giving a complete statement of the volumes existing in the agricultural libraries of the country. Such a list or catalog of one library was issued by the Library of the Dept. of agriculture in 1901 as "Bulletin 37."

2. An agreement by the various agricultural libraries that they will endeavor to secure complete sets of, and to bind all, the agricultural journals of Group III. published within the state.

3. An attempt at the appraisalment, by means of the advice of experts, of the more worthy of the journals, especially in Group III. so that a list of from 20 to 50 might be selected in the various departments of agricultural science, as a guide to the smaller agricultural libraries, and to the public libraries that are beginning to pay some attention to the literature of agriculture.

The subject of the preservation of agricultural periodicals led to the question of indexing them, and Miss Anna M. Smith described a project which is under consideration at the University of Minnesota for the indexing of a limited number of the best agricultural periodicals on a plan similar to the "Readers' guide."

The last question to be discussed was that of permanent organization. After considering the various kinds of organization through which it would be possible to carry on the work begun at these round table meetings. It was voted that the officials of the American library association be communicated with in regard to forming an Agricultural libraries section, and in the event of such a section being formally established, that Miss Claribel R. Barnett serve as Chairman, with power to appoint a Secretary.